

MARVEL

008

S U P E R I O R

TAYLOR
WATANABE
JOSE
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WONG
GURU-eFX

IRON MAN[®]





BE BEAUTIFUL • BE INTELLIGENT • BE HEALTHY • BE IMMORTAL

BE SUPERIOR



Tony Stark is a technological visionary...a famous, wealthy and unparalleled inventor. With the world's most advanced and powerful suit of armor, Stark has valiantly protected the innocent as the golden Avenger known as IRON MAN.

A recent battle with a mentally powered villain has altered Stark's mind. With a more arrogant and aggressive personality surfacing, Stark used San Francisco to beta test his newest invention: the EXTREMIS 3.0 App. It can improve people's lives, making them more attractive, smarter, and healthier...for a **cost**.

As Tony's behavior became increasingly erratic and immoral, Pepper Potts activated a fail-safe that Tony himself made eight years prior; a full backup copy of Tony's mind. Operating from within empty armor, the copy was intended to fix Tony—or replace him. In Resilient's space station, the copy entered Tony's mind to determine if he was a lost cause, only to discover that Tony's plan to improve the Earth included engineering the 'sacrifice' of a percentage of the population. Before the copy could act, however, Tony shorted out its armor and prepared to continue on the warpath toward Pepper Potts...

CHAPTER 8: STARK CONTRAST

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RESILIENT HQ,
NEW YORK.

TONY? TONY!

DAMN
IT!

WHAT
HAPPENED?

WE LOST
COMMUNICATION
WITH THE RESILIENT
SPACE STATION.

WHY ARE
THERE TWO
TONYS?

THE MAN
YOU KNOW IS
NOT TONY STARK.
SOMETHING HAS
CHANGED IN
HIM.

HE SAID
HE WAS
GOING TO
HELP ME.

HE...
MAYBE HE
WAS.

I DON'T
WANT YOU
TO HURT
HIM.

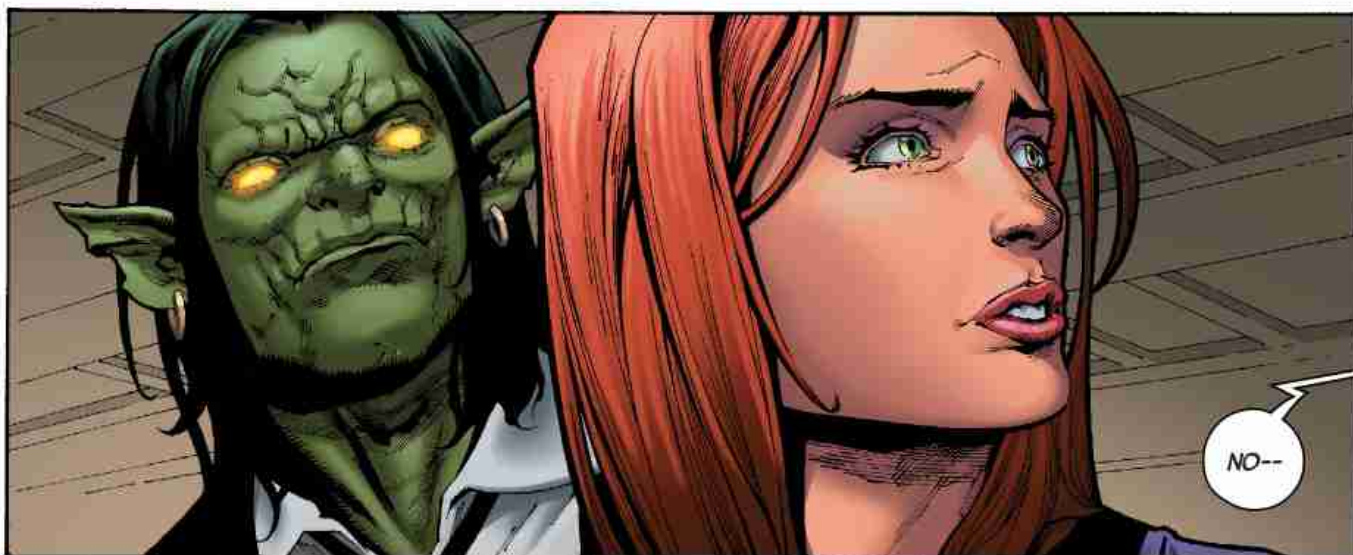
I DON'T
WANT TO HURT
HIM EITHER. BELIEVE
ME, I WANT TO UNDO
WHAT'S BEEN DONE TO
HIM. I JUST WANT
HIM BACK.

I NEED TO
KNOW WHAT'S
HAPPENING UP
THERE.

HE
CALLED YOU
MY STEP-
MOM.

YES. IN A
WAY, I GUESS
I AM. AND I
PROMISE WE'LL
TALK AS SOON
AS--

SO ARE
YOU THE
REASON MY
DAD DIDN'T
WANT ME?





--IT'S NOT OVER.

HUH?

HOW MANY TONY'S ARE THERE?

WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON?

WHAT'S GOING ON IS THERE'S ONLY ONE TONY. THAT ONE IS A DIGITALLY BACKED-UP IMPOSTER TONY.

APPARENTLY WEARING ONE OF MY FAVORITE SUITS.

SO, NO MATTER HOW EFFECTIVELY I TAKE HIM DOWN, HIS ENTIRE PROGRAM IS STORED SOMEWHERE, MEANING HE CAN JUST POP UP AGAIN.

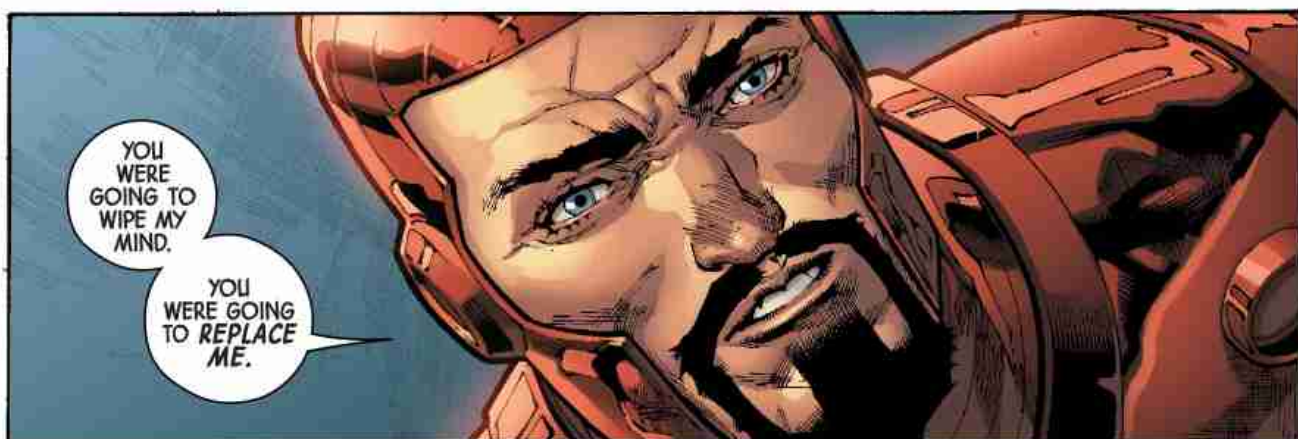
WHAT HAPPENED?

WELL, THE SHOULDER PADS WERE A BOLD CHOICE BUT I WAS FEELING IT AT THE TIME.

A PIECE OF HIS ARMOR GOT IN. HE TOOK OUT THE MARK II'S MEMORY FROM THE INSIDE.



TELL HER THE WHOLE STORY, ARTIFICIAL TONY. YOU WERE IN MY HEAD. I WAS IN YOURS.



YOU WERE GOING TO WIPE MY MIND.

YOU WERE GOING TO REPLACE ME.



THE PLAN WAS TO TRY TO UNDO WHATEVER'S BEEN DONE!

THE PLAN CHANGED.

YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO SAVE HIM!



PEPPER, THERE IS NO SAVING HIM. I'VE BEEN IN HIS MIND. YOU COULDN'T IMAGINE HOW FAR HE'S GONE. WHAT HE'S CAPABLE OF.

HE IS TRULY SICK, DEPRAVED--



YOU KNOW I'M STILL ON THE LINE, RIGHT?



ALSO, CAN WE PLEASE NOT FIGHT IN FRONT OF MY MONSTER? HE'S NOT EXACTLY THE MOST EMOTIONALLY STABLE.

ACTUALLY, JAMIE, WE SHOULD TALK ABOUT THIS CROWD YOU'RE HANGING OUT WITH. I'M CONCERNED THEY'LL BE A BAD INFLUENCE.



THERE IS NOTHING HE WON'T DO TO SEE HIS VISION REALIZED, PEPPER.

WELL, YEAH. THAT'S TRUE.



AND YOU'RE IN MY WAY.

SO I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO REMOVE YOU.

I HOPE YOU'RE READY--

"--I'LL SEE
YOU SOON."

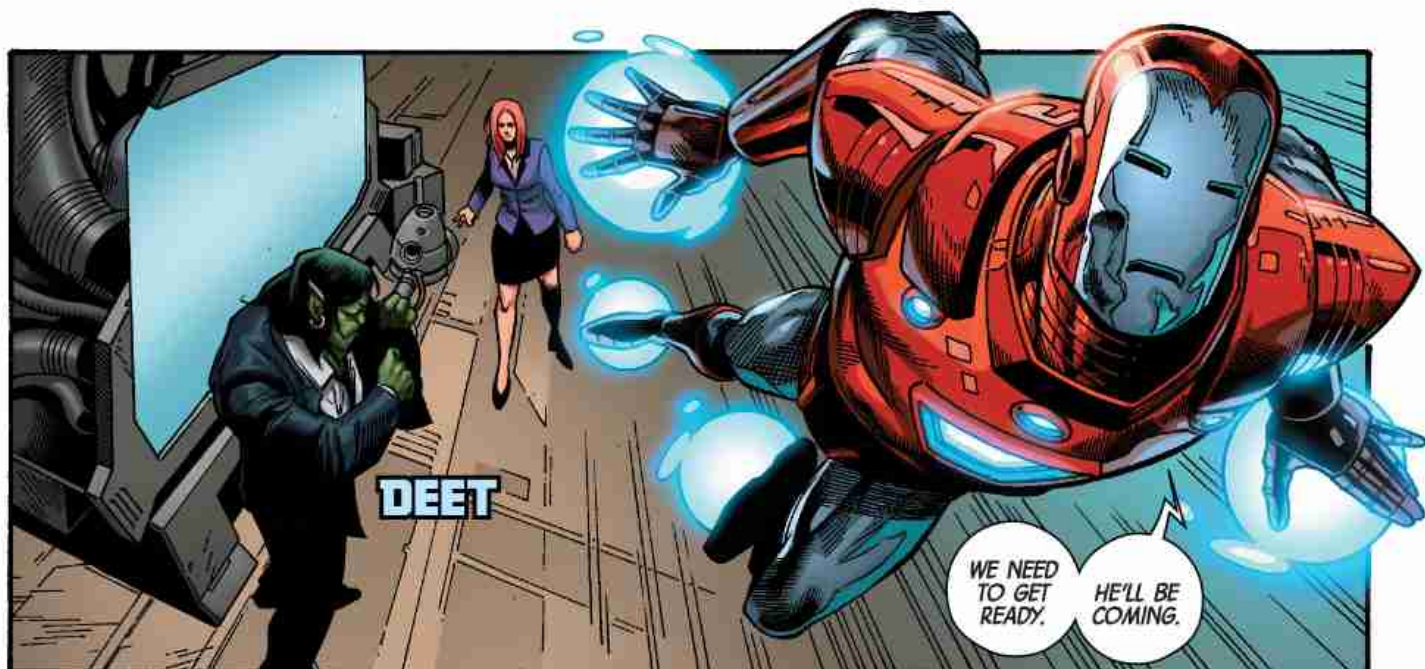


LOOK AT
YOU. SO SMALL.
SO FRAGILE.
DON'T WORRY,
EARTH.



TONY'S
COMING.





DEET

WE NEED
TO GET
READY.

HE'LL BE
COMING.



YEAH...
I DON'T
THINK HE'S
COMING.

WHAT
IS IT?

IT'S THE
EXTREMIS APP...
HE JUST SENT A
MESSAGE OVER
IT.



DID
HE...?

YES. HE
JUST SENT A
BOOTY CALL OUT
TO AN ENTIRE
CITY.



HE ALSO JUST
SURROUNDED HIMSELF
WITH INNOCENT
BYSTANDERS.

WHAT
DO WE
DO?

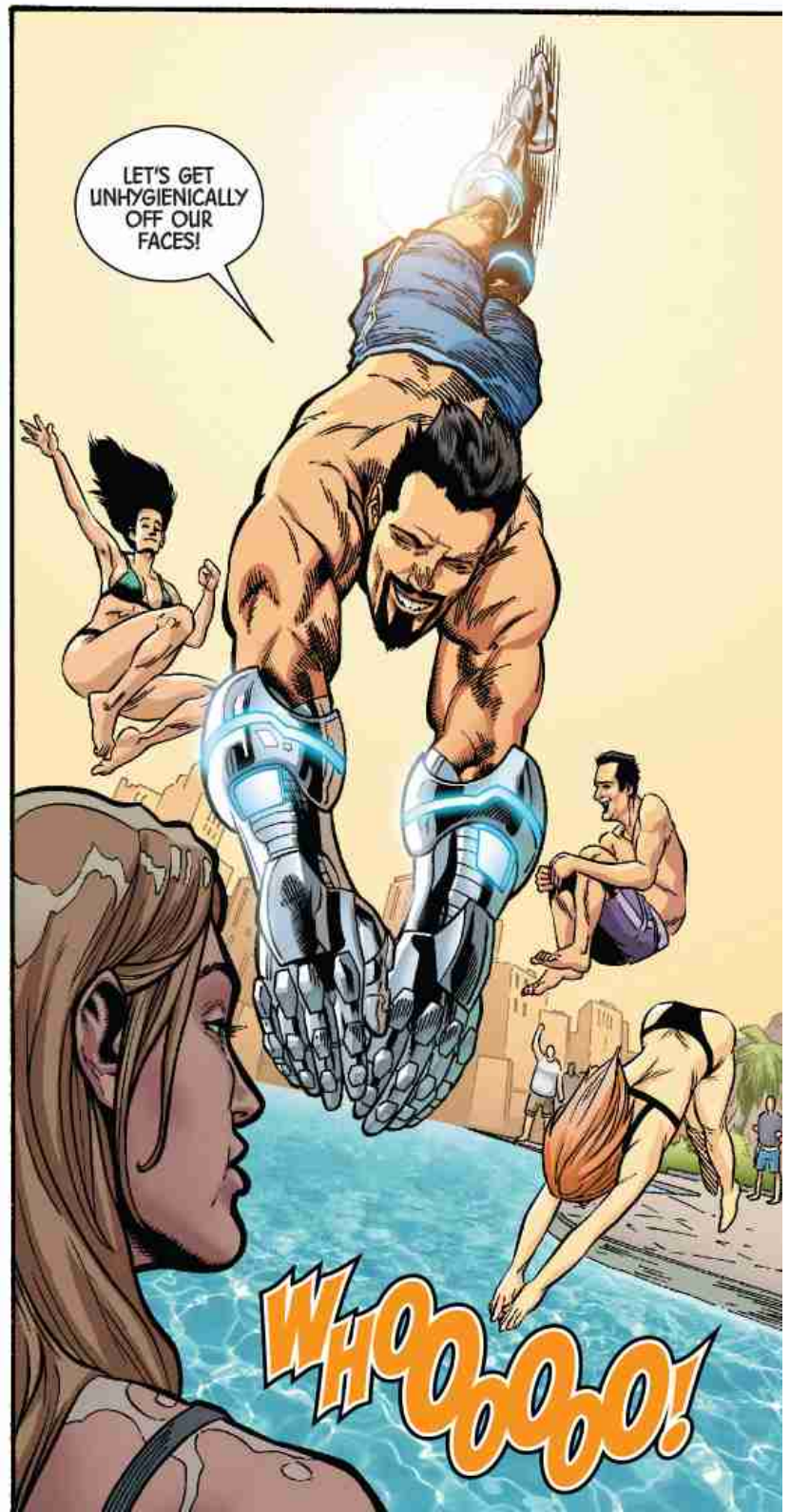
NOTHING.
FOR NOW.



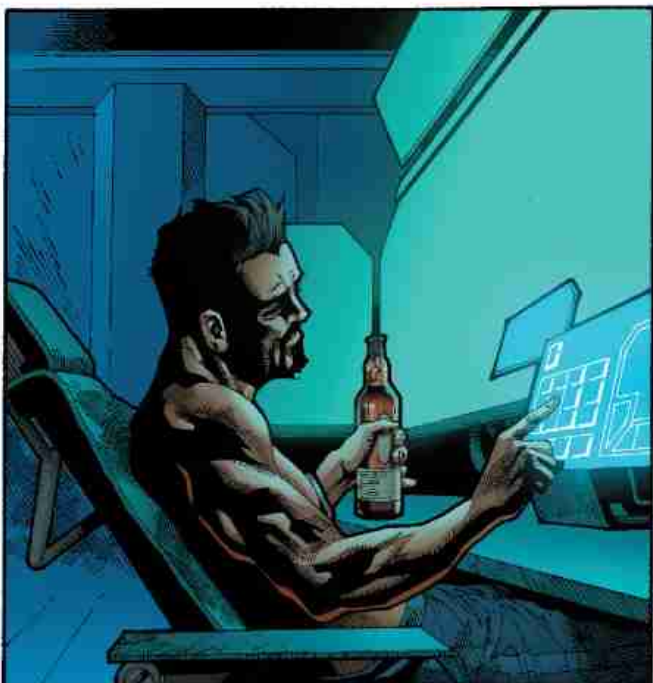
DO YOU
REALLY THINK
IT'S A GOOD IDEA
TO GIVE HIM TIME
TO PREPARE?

IT GIVES
ME TIME TO
PREPARE,
TOO.

STARK ISLAND.









THAT'S OKAY. I SHOULDN'T HAVE A BED HERE ANYWAY. IT JUST ENCOURAGES ME TO SLEEP AT THE OFFICE AND NEVER LEAVE.

I'M SORRY.

DON'T BE. REALLY. MY SOCIAL LIFE THANKS YOU FOR PROVIDING THIS VALUABLE SERVICE.





SHE'S
RIGHT.



WHAT YOU
LOOK LIKE
ISN'T WHO
YOU ARE.

IT MIGHT
SOUND A BIT
CLICHÉD BUT I THINK
I CAN SAY THIS WITH
SOME AUTHORITY, BEING
A BACK-UP MIND
WALKING AROUND IN
A MACHINE BODY.



MY MOM USED TO SAY
THAT, TOO--

--NOT
THE BIT ABOUT
WALKING AROUND
IN A MACHINE
BODY.

YEAH. THAT
WOULD HAVE BEEN
A HELL OF A
COINCIDENCE.



BUT I
NEVER FELT
LIKE...



I DIDN'T
REALLY KNOW
IF I WAS IN THE
RIGHT BODY
BEFORE.

AND NOW
I'M STUCK
IN THIS
ONE.

JAMIE. WHEN THIS IS DONE,
I'M GOING TO FIND A
WAY TO HELP YOU.
I PROMISE.

WE'LL
FIND A WAY
TO--



TONY?

PEPPER!
IT'S NICE TO HEAR
YOUR VOICE. I WAS
EXPECTING TO HEAR THE
GUTTURAL GRUNT OF A
PERMANENTLY PISSED
THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLD
MONSTER.

WHAT
DO YOU
WANT,
TONY?

NO DOUBT
ARTIFICIAL TONY'S
COMING UP WITH NEW
AND CREATIVE WAYS OF
DESTROYING ME AND
INHABITING MY BRAIN.
BUT COULD YOU PASS
ON A MESSAGE
FOR ME?

WHAT?

TELL
HIM--



"--BIO-MARK-ONE."

IF HE'S DONE WHAT I THINK HE HAS, I HAVE TO ACT.



WHY? WHAT'S BIO-MARK-ONE?

BIO-SUITS.

THE IDEA WAS, YOU COULD LAND IN ANY WAR ZONE, AND, IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT RESOURCES... YOU HARNESS PEOPLE.



WHAT?

IT'S JUST MANIPULATING DIFFERENT ELECTRICAL IMPULSES. YOU TAKE OVER THE MINDS AND BODIES OF CIVILIANS OR SOLDIERS, AND USE THEM LIKE DRONES.

IT COULD HAVE BEEN USED FOR PEACE. WARS COULD HAVE BEEN WON WITHOUT A SINGLE SHOT FIRED.



I CAN SEE SOME PRETTY BIG BASIC-HUMAN-RIGHTS-SIZED HOLES IN THIS IDEA.

THERE'S A REASON I DIDN'T MAKE IT, PEPPER. IT'S IMMORAL.

YOU THINK?



BUT THERE'S NO MORALITY LEFT IN HIM ANYMORE. HE'D DO THIS JUST TO SEE IF HE COULD.

IDENTIFIED: TONY STARK.



OKAY. THE IRON SIGHTS ARE TRACKING HIM. HE'LL BE HERE ANY MINUTE. PLACES, EVERYONE.



IT WAS ACTUALLY
PRETTY
SIMPLE.

EVERY
SINGLE PERSON ON
THE ISLAND ALREADY
HAD MY TECHNO-VIRUS
INSIDE THEM. I COULD
ALREADY CHANGE THEIR
BODIES WITH THE FLICK
OF A SWITCH.

A LITTLE
BIT OF SHORT-
WAVE REMOTE
REPROGRAMMING,
AND BIO-MARK-
ONE IS A
REALITY!

GREAT, YOU'VE
CREATED A HUMAN
SHIELD OF UNWILLING
SLAVES TRAPPED INSIDE
THEIR OWN
BODIES.

PROUD
DAY.

LET
THEM
GO.

AND THEN
WHAT? YOU'LL
STOP TRYING
TO STEAL MY
BODY?

NO. I HAVE
A COMPLETELY
DISPOSABLE ARMY
TO PROTECT ME.
I THINK I'LL
KEEP THEM.

IDENTIFIED:
TONY STARK.

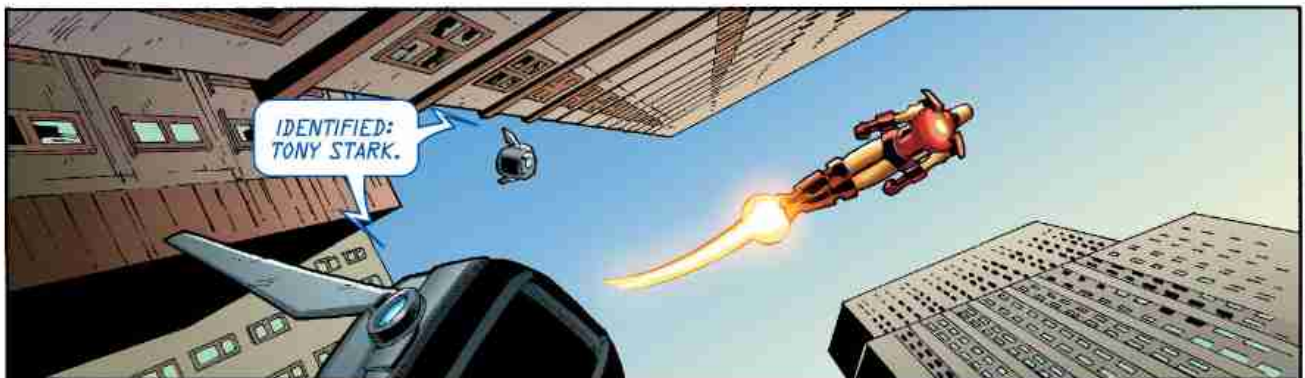
HUH?

IDENTIFIED:
TONY STARK.

IDENTIFIED:
TONY STARK.

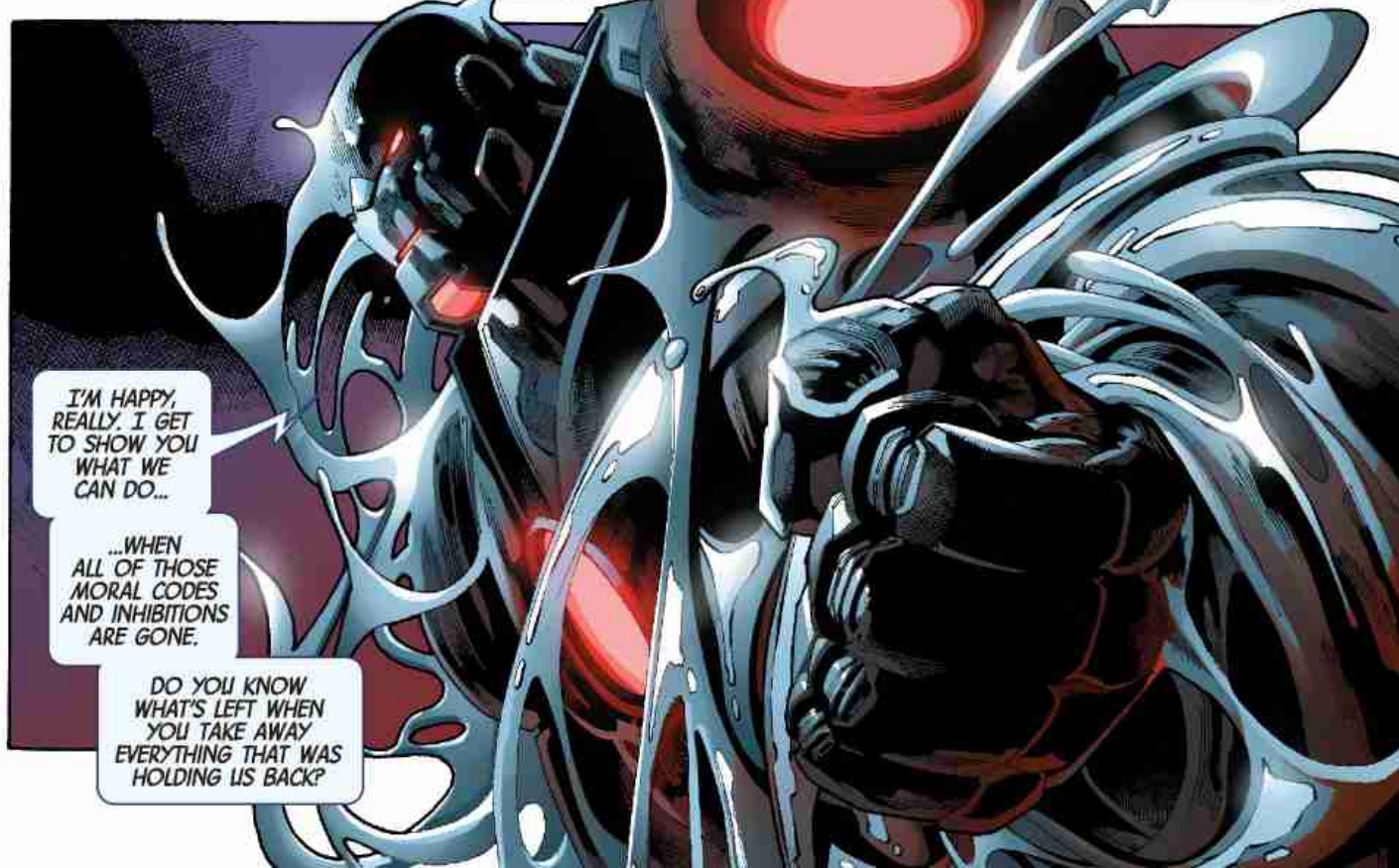
WHAT
THE--?

"AH...I SEE--"









FREEDOM.

TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT ISSUE:

WRATH OF THE IRON WOMAN

